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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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CAMBODIA: First deputy prime minister fired, other cabinet officers may follow. (Page 3)

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CAMBODIA: Lon Nol has fired First Deputy Prime Minister In Tam and may make other cabinet changes soon.

The Prime Minister's move to dismiss In Tam clearly was made in concert with Sirik Matak.

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Matak claimed that In Tam had neglected his duties in Phnom Penh, and that his frequent trips to the countryside were primarily designed to build his own political base among the peasantry.

Although there is some truth in Matak's criticism, the fact remains that the able and energetic In Tam was the government's leading proponent of pacification activities. Lon Nol and Matak have complicated his efforts to mount an effective pacification program, and this triggered threats by In Tam to resign on several occasions. He presumably will now return to the National Assembly, where he has had some influence. He may well seek to drum up more assembly opposition to the government and its policies.

The next important cabinet member to be dismissed may be Third Deputy Prime Minister Hang Thun Hak, whom Lon Nol has recently accused of working with Chief of State Cheng Heng to denigrate Matak.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 23 September 1971 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE-71-71 "Prospects for Change in Portuguese Africa," [redacted]

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